

Message Text

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60
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 301519Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8816
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMCONSUL GOTEBORG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SW, UR, CSCE
SUBJECT: WIFE OF SOVIET DEFECTOR TO SWEDEN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE
AFTER REFUSAL OF EXIT VISA

REF: 75 STOCKHOLM 5672 (NOTAL)

1. SWEDISH PRESS REPORTS THAT WIFE OF SOVIET DEFECTOR
TO SWEDEN VALENTIN AGAPOV ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AFTER
SOVIET AUTHORITIES AGAIN REJECTED HER APPLICATION
TO JOIN HER HUSBAND IN SWEDEN. ACCORDING TO PRESS
REPORTS, LUDMILA AGAPOV IS NOW A PATIENT IN THE
PSYCHIATRIC WARD OF THE SKILFOSOVSKY INSTITUTE.

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2. THE AGAPOV CASE IS WELL-KNOWN IN SWEDEN, AND

VALENTIN HAS BEEN TRYING TO SECURE HIS WIFE'S RELEASE FOR OVER A YEAR (REFTEL). LAST NOVEMBER HE THREATENED TO COMMIT SUICIDE OUTSIDE THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM, RELENTING WHEN THE SOVIETS INTIMATED TO GOS THAT PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE. DURING HIS VISIT TO THE USSR IN APRIL THIS YEAR, PRIME MINISTER PALME HIMSELF TOOK UP THE AGAPOV CASE IN CSCE CONTEXT WITH KOSYGIN AND WAS LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT CASE WOULD BE RESOLVED TO GOS SATISFACTION. IT HAS NOT BEEN.

3. WHEN CONTACTED BY THE SWEDISH PRESS AFTER REPORTS OF LUDMILA AGAPOV'S ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, OFFICIALS AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM EITHER SAID THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CASE OR THAT IT WAS NOT A PROBLEM AT ALL. THE SOVIET PRESS OFFICER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE HAD NO DETAILS, BUT THAT "TOO MANY LIES" HAD BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT THE AGAPOV CASE.

4. PRIME MINISTER PALME ISSUED A STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 28 IN WHICH HE POINTED OUT THAT THE GOS HAS FOLLOWED THIS CASE "WITH GREAT ATTENTION" AND HAS MADE SEVERAL APPROACHES THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, IN ADDITION TO HIS PERSONAL PLEA TO KOSYGIN ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. PALME DECLARED THAT THE GOS IS "GREATLY DISAPPOINTED" THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE REJECTED SWEDISH PLEAS, AND RECOGNIZED THAT THE AGAPOV FAMILY YHAS "ALREADY BEEN EXPOSED TO GREAT PERSONAL SUFFERING." HE CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HIS "STRONG HOPE" THAT THE REUNION OF THE FAMILY WILL SOON BE ACCOMPLISHED.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE CONTINUED INTEREST BY THE GOS, AND VALENTIN AGAPOV'S PERSISTENCE AND SUCCESS IN WAGING A PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN, THE SOVIETS HAVE REFUSED TO BUDGE ON THIS CASE, AFTER IMPLYING ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT IT WOULD BE RESOLVED. AGAPOV CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE HIS AGITATION AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL IN THE NEAR FUTURE HAVE TO TAKE A STAND ON THIS IRRITANT IN SWEDISH-SOVIET

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RELATIONS.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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